

The preceding claim amendments are submitted prior to the upcoming August 18, 2009, Appeal Brief due date for the present application in order to narrow the issues for appeal and to place the claims in better condition for appeal. Claims 1-22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-23 are pending. Applicant requests that the claim amendments be entered.

Upon the Examiner's decision to either enter or not enter the preceding amendment, Applicant respectfully requests prompt notification of that decision so that Applicant's Appeal Brief, due August 18, 2009, may properly reflect the pending subject matter and address the pending rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Brian A. Tollefson/
 Brian A. Tollefson
 Attorney for Applicant
 Registration No. 46,338
 ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK
 1425 K. Street, Suite 800
 Washington, D.C. 20005
 Telephone: (202) 783-6040